

The Listening Post

Kentucky Talking Book Library Newsletter

Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives
Kentucky Talking Book Library

300 Coffee Tree Road Frankfort, KY 40601

1-800-372-2968

Serving Kentucky's Need to Know

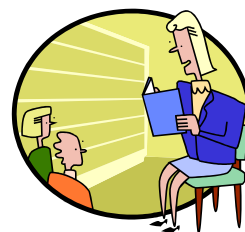
Number 43

Spring 2006



Your Public Library – Not Just for Books!

Just because the Talking Book Library provides you with reading material does not mean you don't need your local public library. Libraries have so much more than just books, and they are not just quiet places with librarians saying "Shh!" Kentucky has 116 public library systems, and they all offer a variety of materials, services, and programs. Here are just a few examples.



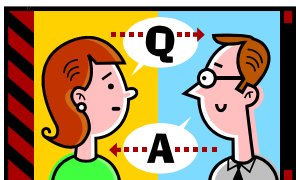
While you may not be able to read regular print books, your library probably has large print books. Libraries also offer audio books on cassette or CD; and even downloadable books you can play on your computer or IPOD. Instead of paying for a movie rental, check out a video or DVD from your library for free. Many libraries also have music available for checkout. Even if you cannot travel to your library, they should have some sort of outreach program to get materials to you, like a bookmobile, books by mail, or home delivery.

Whether you need to know the capitol of Wyoming or want to do research on macular degeneration, a reference librarian can help. They are trained professionals who know where to look for accurate information. Don't have a computer at home? Your library has them available for public use, so you can search the Internet or e-mail a friend. If you are a member of a club or group, remember that your library has a public meeting room you can use. A librarian can also refer you to organizations or services available in your community.

The programs offered by Kentucky's public libraries are only limited by the imagination. Story times are entertaining for infants, toddlers and preschoolers,

while they encourage a love of reading. Older kids may participate in homework help, summer reading programs, or fun arts and crafts projects. Teens might read their own poetry at an open mike night. Adults can attend classes such as learning to use a computer, learning a foreign language, or preparing income taxes. The whole family can enjoy attending author appearances, movies, or live music performances.

Libraries are a vital part of any town, and visiting yours is a good way to stay connected to your community. Please contact your local public library to see what they have to offer you.



Survey Results

We would like to thank all of you who took time to complete our recent survey. The surveys give us an idea of what services you want KTBL to provide for you. We received about 200 replies by mail and had a good many Patrons who called in their responses.

Surprisingly, over 36% of you still didn't know about our Descriptive Video Service (DVS). Descriptive videos are regular VHS movies that can be played in a VCR. They are like a movie you would rent at the local video store, with one exception: where there is no dialogue, there is a voice-over describing the scenes, costumes, or action. Over half of you who responded have DVD players and can work them either with help or by yourself. As a result, we will investigate adding some descriptive DVD's to our collection. We recently received a shipment of 25 new DVS movies and a new catalog will be available soon. Call Greta for more information or an application.

We learned that you enjoy the Kentucky books about familiar people and places, as well as books about the state. You enjoy the fact that the narrators sound like "home folks" with a distinct KY accent. The most requested KY books are about KY history, followed by mysteries, mountain stories and folk tales. There is a list of new KY books included with this newsletter.



Recording for Recovery

Let's Celebrate Spring With Music

Spring is the time to celebrate with the tunes of the season and Recordings for Recovery (R4R) would like to help you! R4R is a music library that is available to the visually

impaired, homebound or those residing in a nursing home. The music is sent through the mail like your talking books.

To become a member of R4R, you can call 1-800-798-1192 and they will send you an information pack. The information pack includes: a print catalog, recorded catalog,

membership information and an order form. There is a small annual membership fee charged to each patron.

They have every type of music, for the oldest listeners to the youngest, including hymns, spirituals, classical, exercise and dance, country and western, jazz, and many more categories.

Reading a Series Books Not in Order?



One problem that patrons encounter is not getting the books in a series to come in the proper sequence. From your point of view, this should be a simple task. However, READS, the computer system we rely on to send your books is not programmed to select titles in series order. READS simply picks the book with the lowest RC number first.

The best way to get a series in the proper sequence is to wait until you have one volume in hand, and then call your librarian to order the next book in the series before you begin reading the volume you have.



Web-Braille

If you are a Braille reader, but find traditional Braille books bulky and too much to handle, you may want to try Web-Braille. It is a system for distributing Braille books, magazines and music scores via the Internet. It has been in operation since September, 1999.

Users must have access to the Internet, an e-mail account, and their own device, such as a refreshable Braille display, a Braille notetaker, or Braille embosser. There are thousands of titles available, and they can be browsed on the NLS online catalog, or selected from *Braille Book Review*.

What are the advantages of Web-Braille? New titles are available more quickly than traditional Braille books, and you can view or download one volume at a time. There are no large volumes to take up space in your home, and with a portable device you can take them anywhere. You can take your time to read because there is no due date. Call your librarian to get a user ID and password, or visit www.loc.gov/nls/braille/ for more information.

Macular Degeneration Information



According to the 2005 Survey, several of you wanted more information on Macular Degeneration. Below is some information about exactly what Macular Degeneration is, and a list of books to help you better understand the condition.

Macular degeneration affects your central vision, but not your peripheral vision. The condition tends to develop as you get older. Macular degeneration is the leading cause of severe vision loss in people age 60 and older. More than 1.6 million American adults have the advanced form of age-related macular degeneration.

RC 48616 The Macular Degeneration Handbook: Natural Ways to Prevent and Reverse It by Chet Cunningham.

RC 48615 Macular Degeneration: The Complete Guide to Saving and Maximizing Your Sight by Lylas G. Mogk and Marja Mogk.

RC 56630 Coping With Macular Degeneration: A Guide for Patients and Families to Understanding Living With Degenerative Vision Disorder by Ira Marc Price and Linda Comac.

RC 52530 Living Well With Macular Degeneration: Practical Tips and Essential Information by Bruce P. Rosenthal and Kate Kelly.

There is a new correspondence course available from the Hadley School for the Blind, located in Winnetka, IL. The course, titled simply "Macular Degeneration," is the latest in a series of tuition-free, distance classes. The course covers various aspects of age-related macular degeneration: symptoms and progression of the disease, diagnosis, emotional impact, doctor-patient relationship, and ways to maximize vision for continuing daily life.

The course is available in large print, cassette, or online. Contact Student Services at 1-800-526-9909, or send an e-mail to studentservices@hadley.edu.



Donations

Contributions to our program, whether large or small, make a difference to us. We recently purchased 25 new descriptive videos, and our children's summer

reading program is funded entirely by donations. Donations are also used to support our volunteer recording program, which produces Kentucky books. Thank you for your generosity.

Louise & Roy Holt
Glennie R. Garrett
Cora H. Morgan
John W. Casey
Kent & Juanita Richmond
Hilda Williams
Truman Lawrence
Larry & Linda Morgan
Florice M. Larimore
Anne P. Kirkpatrick
Ralph & Reba Cotton
Louise Heidorn
Rodney, Lois & Susan Miller
Annie M. Curd
Barbara R. Cowden

If you would like to contribute to KTBL, please make your check or money order payable to the Kentucky Talking Book Library, P O Box 537, Frankfort, KY 40602-0537. Please do not send cash through the mail. Donations are 100% tax deductible and appreciated by the patrons who use our service.

Commissioner's Picks



In the recent survey responses we found that some of you would like to know what KDLA Commissioner, Jim Nelson likes to read. We got him to take a few minutes to think about it and he gave us the following list:

RC 51566/BR 13279 A Hour Before Daylight: Memories of a Rural Boyhood by Jimmy Carter

RC 34114/BR 03615 The Sun Also Rises by Ernest Hemingway

RC 55735 The Da Vinci Code by Dan Brown

RC 51799 Angels and Demons by Dan Brown

The Harry Potter Series by J.K. Rowling (call your librarian for numbers)

We also picked our Division Director's (Judith Gibbons) brain and got these suggestions:

RC 60330/BR 16114 1776 by David McCullough

RC 23888 Time and Again by Jack Finney

And, while we were at it, we polled our Branch Manager, Barbara Penegor, and got these suggestions:

RC 21558 The Bell Jar by Sylvia Plath

RC 36414/BR 12850 To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

RC 51057/BR 12975 Persuasion by Jane Austen

Contact your librarian if you wish to read any of these books. Also, call us if you have any titles you want to suggest.

Dates to Remember

The Talking Book Library will be closed on the following days:

April 14: ½ day: Good Friday

May 29: Memorial Day

July 4: Independence Day

September 4: Labor Day



We hold staff meetings once a month. If you call during this time, your call will be forwarded to a voice mail system. Please leave your name and number and a member of our staff will return your call.

Welcome Leslie and Janet



In the Fall, 2005, newsletter we told you that we had hired Leslie Stivers in our Circulation area. Leslie is in the National Guard, and less than a month after starting work he was deployed to the Mississippi and Georgia coasts to help with Hurricane Katrina relief. He is now back and settled in.

Leslie came to us from the Department of Transportation and has worked in state government for 10 years. He and his wife, Cindy, have three children and Leslie's "baby", Levi (their Maltese).

We also want to welcome Janet Chisman to KTBL. She replaces Chris Payne who retired in December. She has worked in our agency for over 20 years.

Janet's first job in a library was as a high school junior at the Cherokee (Iowa) Public Library. After earning a Library Science Education degree at the University of South Dakota, she went to the University of Kentucky for a Master's degree in Library Science. The year was 1978, so that gives you an idea how long Janet has lived in Central Kentucky. Janet worked at Kentucky State

University for four years before coming to KDLA in 1983.

Janet reports there are no kids or current pets, but she is an aunt to her brother's children. Her parents still live in Cherokee, but her brother and sister-in-law are retired and full-time RVers with no fixed address. Hobbies include reading, movies, home maintenance (Is it time to cut the grass?), and friends.



Baseball Season is Here!

Spring ushers in the baseball season, and once again we will offer both the American and National League Baseball schedules in Braille. If you are interested in receiving a copy, please call Greta.

Accessible Knitting and Crochet Patterns



From the www.LionBrand.com web site comes news that all Lion Brand knitting and crochet patterns are offered on line in three versions. In addition to the standard version, that includes images and text, each pattern is now available in two versions specially designed for crafters who are visually impaired.

Every on line pattern includes two new links at the top. The first link formats the pattern to be read in large-type format or by text-to-speech browsers. The second link formats the pattern so that it can be read by devices that produce Braille. They have also added color descriptions to all yarns, and special features which make it easier to understand the patterns when read by text-to-speech browsers. Suggestions and comments are welcome. Please send to support@lionbrand.com.

Labels for Literacy



Have you ever reached into your cupboard to retrieve a can of soup, and got a can of *corn* instead? If so, you may be interested in a nationwide program that aids visually impaired persons in identifying the products in their pantry.

“Labels for Literacy” is a program that provides self-stick labels which identify common brands and products in Braille or Large print. From baby foods to canned goods to dairy products and much more, the labels are available at no cost to blind and visually impaired consumers.

You can find out more about this program by visiting their web site at www.labelsforliteracy.com or you may call toll-free at 1-866-325-2235.

Be Kind! **Please Rewind All Tapes!**

Important Items to Remember

Kentucky Talking Book Library

1-800-372-2968

1-502-564-8300 ext 276 (local)

Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 am until 4:30 pm

You may leave a voice mail message after hours.

We want you to enjoy Talking Books. Your librarian can tailor your service to suit your needs, whatever they are. Please do not hesitate to call us for any of the following:

- **to make book requests**
- **with any questions or problems**
- **whenever your name, address, or telephone number changes**
- **to temporarily stop service**
- **if you want to change the types of books you get, or the number of books you receive**
- **when you have problems with books or machines**
- **if you want to change the format of your newsletters or catalogs**
- **to cancel your service**

Include your name, address, and telephone number on all correspondence, request lists, e-mails, and telephone messages.

Please return each book, magazine, or newsletter as soon as you finish it. The maximum loan period is 30 days.

Remember to rewind tapes before returning them.

Mark an “X” on the mailcard of any defective book.

Take care of all cassette books, Braille books, and cassette players; keep them free of food, liquids, dust, and debris.

Please keep this list for future reference.



Tips for Better Service

KTBL's toll-free phone number is 1-800-372-2968. When you call this number, our secretary, Lee, or another staff member will answer the phone. This number is a direct line into the Talking Book Library. Just give her your name and she will direct you to the proper person or take a message if no one is available.

Our local phone number is 502-564-8300, ext. 276. This is a direct line into the secretary's phone.

When you call us and are connected to voice mail, we are either closed or unable to take your call because we are busy helping other

patrons. If you get a voice mail recording, please leave a message. Speak slowly and include your name (spelling the last name) and phone number. Please do not leave lengthy request lists or long messages on the voice mail. Please just state the reason you are calling and we will return your call as soon as possible.

If you have a damaged cassette book, please put a rubber band around the tape that is bad and place it inside the box. Please mark an “X” on the mail card. **DO NOT** mark the tape itself. Please **DO NOT** put string, rubber bands, or twist ties on the outside of the container as they tend to hang in the post office's equipment.

You may contact us by e-mail:

Barbara Penegor, Branch Manager and Librarian (A-F) barbara.penegor@ky.gov

Lee Logan, Secretary, Talking Book Library lee.logan@ky.gov

Janet Chisman, Librarian (G-O) janet.chisman@ky.gov

Paula Ernspiker, Volunteer Coordinator paula.ernspiker@ky.gov

Wendy Hatfield, Librarian (P-Z) wendy.hatfield@ky.gov

Greta Wise, Magazine & Video Clerk greta.wise@ky.gov

(the three other commonwealths are Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and Virginia.)

Kid's Page

(Adults may enjoy these pages, too!)



Kentucky Lions Youth Camp

The Kentucky Lions Youth Camp for the Blind/Vision Impaired will be held Sunday, July 2nd through Saturday, July 8th, 2006 at Lions Camp Crescendo in Lebanon Junction, Kentucky. The camp is FREE to Kentucky residents. Youth must be between the ages of eight and fifteen years old. The camp is made possible by the support and donations of the Lions of Kentucky. Both boys and girls are eligible. For more information or an application, contact Cecil W. Warner, Director, KY Lions Youth Camp, 626 Colonial Trace, Frankfort, KY 40601-1329, telephone 502-223-8514 or email cwarner@mis.net.



Kentucky Facts

In the life of every student, there comes the day when your social studies teacher assigns your class the task of reporting on the symbols of your state. What happens next is a mad dash to the school library to find the only copy of the World Almanac or to log on to the few computers not in use. But Kentucky students—Stop Your Running! Below is a list of Kentucky symbols.

State Capitol: Frankfort

State Motto: United We Stand,

State Tree:	Tulip Poplar	Divided We Fall
State Bird:	Cardinal	State Wild Animal: Gray Squirrel
State Fish:	KY Spotted Bass	State Fruit: Blackberry
State Drink:	Milk	State Flower: Goldenrod
State Rock:	KY Agate	State Mineral: Coal

Kentucky is not actually a state. It is a Commonwealth. “Commonwealth” is a part of the official name of Kentucky, as decided by the first General Assembly on June 4, 1792. Kentucky is one of four commonwealths in the United States. (Can you name the other three? The answers at the bottom of the “Tips for Better Service” page.) The first use of the word commonwealth in official documents regarding Kentucky occurred in 1785, when the inhabitants of the Kentucky District petitioned Virginia to recognize Kentucky as a “free and independent state, to be known by the name of the ‘Commonwealth’ of Kentucky.”



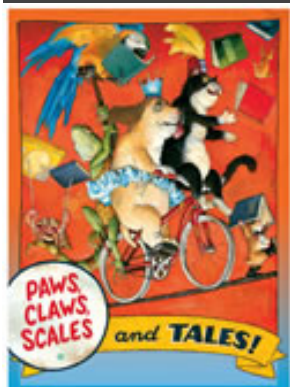
Two Important Kentuckians

Two of the most important men during the Civil War were Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, and Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States. These two men were born less than a year apart and less than 100 miles from each other.



President Lincoln was born near Hodgenville on February 12, 1809, reared in Indiana, and moved to Illinois as a young adult. He studied basic math and Shakespeare and Robert Burns while working at the local village store. He was elected President in November, 1860. While in office, he issued the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863, which led to the freeing of all slaves. He was shot on April 14, 1865 and died the next morning.

Jefferson Davis was born in Fairview on June 3, 1809, and raised in Mississippi. He attended Transylvania University and was appointed to West Point. He was chosen as President of the Confederate States and inaugurated in Richmond, Virginia in February, 1862. He was confined in Fortress Monroe in Virginia for two years following the end of the Civil War and died in 1890. He was originally buried in New Orleans, but his body was later moved to Richmond, Virginia.



2006 Kentucky Summer Reading Program

KTBL, along with Kentucky’s public libraries, is gearing up for a fun 2006 children’s summer reading program. This year’s theme is “Paws, Claws, Scales and Tales,” which will feature pets both real and imaginary. The companion program for teens is

called “Creature Feature.” Public libraries will have opportunities not only to entertain children with stories and activities about beloved pets, but also to educate them about humane treatment of animals, responsible pet ownership, opportunities and careers for children who love animals, and about those non-pet animals helpful to humans in so many ways.

All these exciting library activities will have the goal of promoting enjoyable, voluntary reading to help students of all ages maintain reading skills while on vacation. Children who use the talking books are encouraged to contact their local public library to join in on their activities. Your public library can provide suggested reading lists, and you can call us to request the talking book or Braille version.

Adults are also encouraged to get in on the fun. Many public libraries have adult summer reading programs. Even if yours doesn't you can still take part by reading talking or Braille books with an animal theme. Please call Lee to register. She will send you a starter package which will include a Reading Log, coupons for state attractions and local restaurants, and other items. The KTBL summer reading program will run from June 1st until August 15th. **PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED TO THOSE WHO READ THE MOST BOOKS OR SPEND THE MOST TIME READING!** Each book you read will enter you for a chance to win the Grand Prize!



Memorial Day

The unofficial start of summer is Memorial Day, or Decoration Day, as it was originally known. The first Memorial Day was celebrated on May 30, 1868, to commemorate the sacrifices of Civil War soldiers. It was called Decoration Day because it was a time set aside to decorate the graves of our nation's soldiers. It wasn't until 1971 that Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday to be celebrated on the last Monday in May.

Most of us associate Memorial Day as a time to get out the shorts and sun screen and begin to plan our summer activities. But many people still honor departed loved ones by visiting and decorating their gravesites at this time. At Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, DC, a ceremony is held in which a small American flag is placed on each grave, and a wreath is laid at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.



Action and Adventure!

Action and adventure stories never grow old. Whether it's battling pirates or fighting for freedom, you'll find plenty of thrills in these classic tales of adventure:



RC 50083 The Complete Chronicle of Narnia by C. S. Lewis Presented in order, these seven tales tell the story of four children and the magical world of Narnia.

RC 52436 Treasure Island by Robert L. Stevenson Jim Hawkins finds a treasure map and searches for gold.

RC 25111 The Swiss Family Robinson by Johann D. Wyss A shipwrecked family uses their ingenuity to overcome many dangers.



In providing information to readers of THE LISTENING POST, the Kentucky Talking Book Library does not endorse any product or service referred to in this newsletter.

THE LISTENING POST

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an Agency of the Education Cabinet.

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PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED



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